

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/743,206

Applicant(s)

CARLSON ET AL.

Examiner

Art Unit

Ryan A. Jarrett

2125

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to RCE filed 5/4/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-3,5-19,21,23-28,30-36 and 39-43.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 22 December 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 5/4/05, 5/4/05
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee. The change to claim 10 was necessary since there was no antecedent basis for "the unstrained amount of web material in the tension zone" in claim 1. Support for this limitation is found in claim 5. The change to claim 11 was necessary since there was no antecedent basis for "the second roller" in claim 1.

2. The application has been amended as follows:

In claim 10 line 1, "claim 1" was replaced with --claim 5--.

In claim 11 line 3, "the second" was replaced with --a second--.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 1-3, 5-19, 21, 23-28, 30-36, and 39-43 are allowed.

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Sakai et al. 5,754,361 discloses that the tension of the tape is calculated based on the rotational speeds of the two reels (e.g., 9 lines 1-11). Given a rotational speed of

a reel, one of ordinary skill in the art would be able to obtain the length of tape traveling over the reel through well-established equations known in the art.

Furthermore, Okamura U.S. Patent No. 4,736,900 discloses determining a tension based on a length of tape moved. However, neither of these references, taken alone or in combination, teach "determining an unstrained length of web material added to a tension zone in a time period...and determining the tension in the web material at the end of the time period as a function of the unstrained length of web material added to the tension zone", in combination with the remaining features and elements of the claimed invention. Sakai et al. and Okamura do not disclose that the web material is "unstrained", nor do they disclose that the particular length calculated is a length "added to the tension zone".

The Applicant determines the unstrained amount of web material added to the tension zone in one of two ways: (1) as a function of the position of the first roller and a tension value for an upstream tension zone, or (2) as a function of the position of the second roller and a previously determined tension value for the tension zone.

5. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Information Disclosure Statement

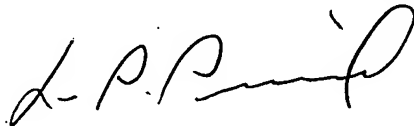
6. The information disclosure statements (IDS) submitted on 5/4/05 have been considered by the examiner.

Conclusion

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ryan A. Jarrett whose telephone number is (571) 272-3742. The examiner can normally be reached on 10:00-6:30 M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Leo Picard can be reached on (571) 272-3749. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Ryan A. Jarrett
Examiner
Art Unit 2125

5/8/05

**LEO PICARD
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100**